

The Black Mirror News

Reflections

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VOL. 7, NO. 2 • APRIL 2002



Wanda Ferguson-Graham

The Black Mirror News congratulates – Wanda Ferguson Graham for being one of this year's 25 influential black women in business.

– SEE PAGE 2

To love my people shouldn't imply I hate others...

(AUTHOR UNKNOWN)

NEW JERSEY EDITION

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PHOTOGRAPHERS

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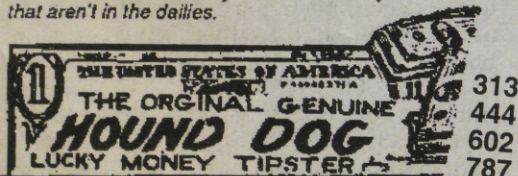
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THE BLACK MIRROR NEWS - SALUTES -

WANDA FERGUSON-GRAHAM

Vice President Home Ownership Development Program,
New York State Affordable Housing Corp. New York, NY

MRS. FERGUSON-GRAHAM was one of twenty-five women who were honored by The Network Journal, for having achieved a significant level of success in business.

A graduate of Baruch College in New York, Mrs. Ferguson-Graham administers a 25 million dollar annual budget which assists low and moderate income New Yorkers in acquiring affordable housing.

Mrs. Ferguson-Graham is a resident of South Orange, New Jersey.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Farewell Banquet for NHA Employees

A Cocktail Reception and Dinner was held at the Robert Treat Hotel for NHA Employees who helped build the Newark Housing Authority, and now will be transcending throughout the USA.

So Farewell to: Juan Acevedo, Carlos Agurto, Joseph Allen, Ramon Aneses, Joyce Bailey, Dorothy Batts, Barbara Bell, Rudolph Booker, Marc Breitkopf, Anthony Cimolo, Paul Covert, Alice Culpepper, Marguerite D'Esposito, Elsie Eatman, Louvenia Eddens, Daniel Errico, Manuel Esteves, Eddie Figueroa, Cynthia Greene, Edna Haptmon, Daniel Harrington, Betty Horne, Tyrone James, Gerald Johnson, James Johnson, Irene Kalock, Willie King, Joseph Maloney, Theresa Manfro, Joseph Menza, Francesco Mercado, Ann Nelson, Oren Orr, Thomas Padden, Martha Pearson, Rose Marie Pearson, Dominick Procopio, Hakim Rashed, Lewis Richeimer, Luther Roberson, Jr., Joyce Roberts, Emily Robinson, Gloria Robinson, Dorothea Rodgers, Otto Roquemore, Prem Sachveda, Rodolphe Schomberg, Gilbert Shelley, Vaughn Shelton, Mary Staley Marilyn Stapleton, Cleopatra Tucker, Philip Tuossto, George Turner, Delores Warren and Faith Wiley.

Polly Ticks...Polly Ticks...Polly Ticks...Polly Ticks...Polly Ticks...Polly Ticks...Polly Ticks...

Mayor Sharpe – What he's doing for Newark... (continued)

MAYOR JAMES GIVES OUT ID CARDS TO SENIORS

Newark senior citizens now have appropriate identification when they need it, since Mayor Sharpe James began handing out free Senior Citizen Identification Cards to the city's "Seasoned Citizens" recently at a ceremony in the East Ward.

The Police Department is providing free photo ID cards to Newark residents aged 60 and up to help them with routine transactions or any emergencies. The department is sending a van to churches and senior citizens' complexes to produce the cards on the spot.

The program kicked off at the seniors' complex at 963 Frelinghuysen Avenue in the City's East Ward, as the mayor, joined by Newark Police Director Anthony F. Ambrose III, helped Newark Police Officers



Mayor Sharpe James and Newark Police Chief Anthony F. Ambrose III unveil Newark's Senior ID Card.

collect information from seniors and produce the ID cards.

"This program is to provide our senior citizens with a means to identify themselves in situations as critical as life-and-death emergencies or as mundane as a bank transaction. Either way, these ID cards will make it easier to provide our seniors with the services they need," James said.

MAYOR JAMES SENDS 150 COPS INTO STREETS TO FIGHT DRUGS AND GANGS IN NEIGHBORHOODS



Newark Mayor Sharpe James talks with some of the 150 new members of the Newark Police Department's Drug and Gang Task Force at their first roll call.

Urging his officers to uphold the law by deed and example, Mayor Sharpe James gave strong words of encouragement to 150 Newark Police Officers at their first roll call as part of the Drug and Gang Enforcement Task Force.

At the roll call, held by James and Police Chief Anthony F. Ambrose III, the mayor said, "You will address the gang violence and drug dealers, whose

behavior disrespects the rights and property of others. We hear the hue and cry in our neighborhoods today. We are taking action. This is a great day."

"After today, when we have citizens' meetings," James said, "I never want to hear a student at one of our schools say he or she is afraid to go to school or come out of school. Do your job in a professional and compassionate way."

After the roll call, the mayor shook hands with some of the officers going out on patrol and talked with them.

The mayor also urged Newark residents to play their part in fighting drugs and crime by calling either of the two new hotlines the Police Department has set up.

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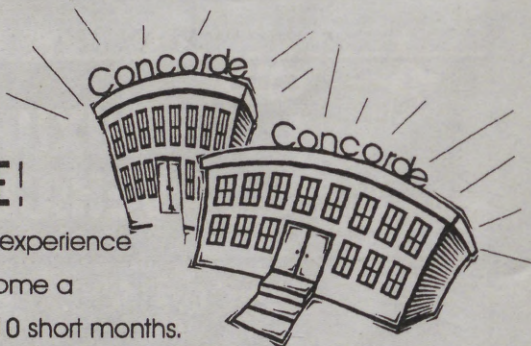
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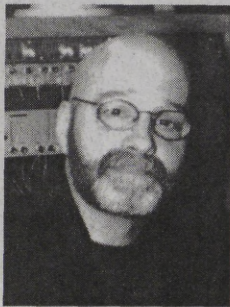
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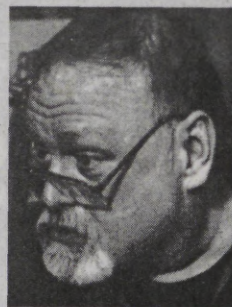
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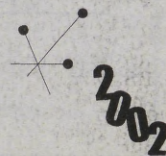
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Strictly JAZZ!

By JOE THOMAS

The PLAYBILL (Gone, but not forgotten)

QUESTION: Does the name Angello Facciponte sound familiar? This question is directed to you who were "Night-club-active" in Newark in the 50's, 60's, and part of the 70's. ANSWER: He owned *The PLAYBILL*.

The Playbill was located on Central Ave., Newark, two or three doors west of South 12th St. across from the Fairmount Cemetery. The bands played inside the bar (like at the *Key Club*). It catered to many of the same people who patronized the *Key Club*, *Cadillac Club*, (later called *Sparky J's*), *Front Room*, *Len and Lens*, and others.

In the past I've read many articles about the local jazz scenes and NO ONE mentions *The Playbill*. That surprised me because many of the bands and singers who appeared at the aforementioned clubs ALSO performed at *The Playbill*. To name a few: Rhoda Scott, Jack McDuff, Charles Earland, John (or Jon) Bartell and this writer.

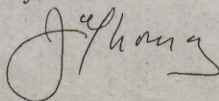
Angello Facciponte was very "hip" and "low-key". He loved jazz and he loved people. He and I would sit and talk sometimes until daybreak after my "gig" was done for the night. My group performed there many, many times. At the time my group had Jimmy Ponder (guitar), Robbie Porter (baritone sax), Johnny "Jiggs" Chase (organ), and Kenny Pollard (drums). Remember them?

Where the *Playbill* once was – a place called "*Shadows*" emerged. It was truly a beautiful place, obviously, a great amount of money had been invested in renovating the former *Playbill*. Unfortunately, it was not there very long.

Earlier in my column, I mentioned *Len and Lens*. It is another place worthy of commemoration. It didn't have the consistency of some other jazz clubs, but it held its own.

Till the next time... Keep jazz alive.

Love you much



P.S. If it is that you're reluctant to say you were "night-club-active" in the 50's because you might be telling your age. Perish the thought. Just say you're a Historian (smile)

Special to THE BLACK MIRROR NEWS

A View From The Bar

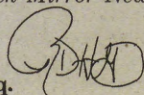
No, it is not an angle from *Green Street*, *Maize*, *Saints Café*, or in some cases, *Friday's*, it's a view of a professional institution known as the legal community. With an unusual patronage of attorneys, paralegals, secretaries, assistants, and an occasional mix of clerks, this writer may also have the opportunity to express issues regarding those that affect our decision making. This issue's **BIG MIXER** goes out to **Christina Bennett, Esq.** a graduate of Seton Hall University School of Law; she currently serves in three capacities at the Law school. Assistant Director of the Legal Research and Writing program, Assistant Director of Academic support, and last but not least, Professor of Legal Research. (You may also find her this summer heavily involved with the Legal Education Opportunity Program).

Quite often lawyers take on several roles, which many of us are good at. We further extended ourselves to become consultants, advisers and oh, one of my favorites, **POLITICIANS!** In the advent of all of these things plus practicing law, we are also human. We try our best, to do our best, to have the best, to be the best. **Peter Harvey, Esq.** **Vivian Sanks King, Esq.**, **Karol Corbin Walker, Esq.**, **Joanne Watson, Esq.**, **Zulima Farber, Esq.** To this end, we also have needs, especially many of the young professionals. As we look for apartments, (**Sylvia Hebron, Esq.**) better paying positions, and strong partners, we will try to find our place in the field. Hey! **Anthony K. Thomas**, Public Defender, are you helping with the wedding plans?

I caught **Veronica O'Neal of Lebeouf, Lamb** doing a lot of overtime, and ran into a host of legal eagles during **Dr. Watley's** reception at Rutgers University School of Law. The new CEO and Secretary of the Commerce and Economic Growth Commission welcomed all. If we thought **Leslie Harper Esq.** was busy in 2001... Watch out!!!! Congratulations to **Lester Taylor, Esq.**, President of the Garden State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division as he sets up shop, **Esquires, Michael and Michelle Ship**, as they prepare to bring a third son into the world. Keep our calendars open for the Black Law Student Association Dinner in April, and the GSBA Annual Scholarship Dinner-Dance on May 3rd. If you are looking for a good attorney, drop me a line at *The Black Mirror News!* (I always check the bartender list).

Practice makes perfect,

Roslyn D. Holmes Grant, Esq.



INSIDE EAST ORANGE...

BY MARCIA JAMES-ROBINSON

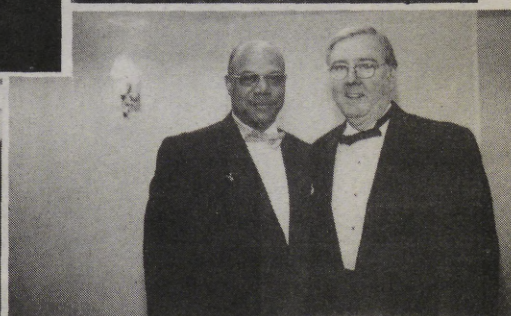
The Honorable Robert E. Bowser along with his wife, East Orange's first lady Marilyn Bowser hosted a weekend extravaganza at the Sheraton Hotel on Frontage Street (*out by the old Newark Airport*). Catherine Willis, EO Dem Municipal Chairperson was the official greeter and looked magnificent in her black ballgown. The festivities kicked off Friday night with (activities, activities, activities, activities, and... activities). The highlight of the weekend was the **Mayor's second Inaugural Ball**. Cocktail hour featuring fresh lobster medallions on water crackers, miniature lamb chops, pasta dishes, melt-in-your-turkey, etc. just to name a few, preceded the ball. Dinner served in the main ballroom was equally impressive. All Wards of the City were well-represented by councilmembers: **Joyce Goore** and **Thomas Brown**, 1st Ward; **Jacquelin (Jackie) Johnson** and **Ernest Savoy**, 2nd Ward; **Quilla Talmadge** and **Clinton Robinson**, 3rd Ward; **Lorrie Madox** and **Zachary Turner**, 4th Ward; and the **Mary Patterson** and **David Clark**, 5th Ward. Others in attendance were **Pat McNally**, **Arthur Taylor**, **Keith DeCosta**, **Orange Mayor Hatcher & wife**; **Peter Eagler**, singer, **Gloria Lynn**; **Cicely Tyson**, **Linda Lords Caraway**; **US. Sen. Robert Toaricelli**, **Darryl Gatlen**, **Nia Gill**, **Danny Williams** of the **NAACP** and wife, **Catherine Willis**, the mayor's brother, **Lucious Bowser**, **Willis Edwards III**, **Tony Jackson**, and so very many others...



The Honorable Robert E. Bowser and first lady Marilyn Bowser at the Mayor's 2nd Annual Inaugural Ball.

Warren Daniels and the NY People provided the terrific music.
WHAT A GROUP OF MUSICIANS!





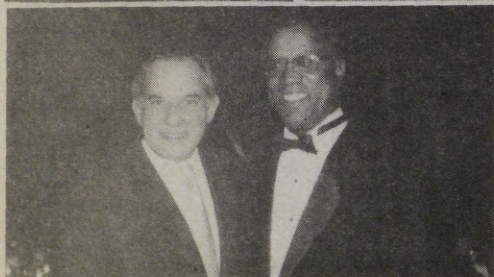
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(photos below): *Folks who came to see ... and be seen*



FALLING LEAVES



COLBLECE "BUSTER" JAMISON

owner of Jamison Flooring Co.

Lovingly known as "Buster," he was a very talented dancer. Along with Tiny Prince, Leonard Hurd and Herbie Smith, he performed at the Cotton Club and The Savoy

Ballroom in New York City to name a few. Buster and his partner Gladys Slay were known for the Lindy Hop and the Swing. They both traveled around the Tri-State area performing with well-known singers and musicians. Ella Fitzgerald was one of his favorites.

COYT LEROY JONES

a Newark activist

The father of writer/poet/political activist Amiri Baraka, "he was a man who understood the strength of family, and he knew what had to be done to maintain a family" Baraka said.



Mr. Jones was also a founding member of the Bridge Club, a gathering place for Newark's political activists on Washington Street. Proprietor of a store on Clinton Place in the 1960s, that specialized in African apparel. Mr. Jones was also a tournament bowler, and a founding member and longtime president of one of Newark's oldest bowling organizations, the Nemderolocs, which Baraka noted is "colored men" spelled backward.

Mr. Jones, a member and deacon of Bethany Baptist Church in Newark, was called one of the "lights" of the church by The Rev. William Howard. He was also active in the senior citizens organization at his Court Street residence.

SHIRLEY SCOTT, 67

jazz woman won renown on the Hammond

One of the few woman in jazz to fashion a successful career on the Hammond organ, drew her inspiration from Jimmy Smith.

JOE LEE MARSHALL

a member of the Newark Frontiers

He was also noted as being a member of various army positions.

EDNA L. COOKE

teacher in Newark schools

A longtime teacher in Newark, she taught physically-handicapped children at the Branch Brook School and kindergarten students at the Camden Street School.

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SORRY! It seems our host and publisher did not appreciate the column written about him last issue. Although complimentary, he said "newspaper amateurs or pros should not be written about until their demise" (note to everyone... he means dead).

One of the folk we are still trying to catch up with is **Ms. Tara L. Dowdell**, the young lady that traveled all over New Jersey with **Gov. James McGreevey's** campaign... **Hilton Davis**, a member of the 'elite society' is not *totally* well, but is up and around and says life is great!... **Claudia J. Frances** seen up in the Hall of Records working up high in the courts - smiles... **Isaac Hayes** just now getting his musical dues - note he says don't forget the youngsters who need our support... Saw **Mrs. C. Gibson's** new BMW, it's great and she deserves it. A very charming lady... Folks in the know are talking about **Rev. Levin B. West** building a new church, **Grace Reformed Baptist Church Inc.** Watch for the groundbreaking... **Najah** still one of the finest ladies in Essex County - smiles... Sincere condolences to **Mr. Jones'** family, he was also one of my mentors... **Ladies' Nite Out at the Maize** every Thursday at 6 PM until 10 PM is great! Classy ladies checking out the scene, gifts for the ladies, good music and of course

the ever present gentlemen - smiles... Newark's **Cissy Houston** in the **McDonalds Gospel Fest**. She travels to Westbury, NY, May 12th; Newark Symphony Hall, May 19th; Palace Theatre, Stamford, CT, May 20th; and the Theatre at Madison Square Garden in New York City, Sunday June 2nd... Happy Birthday to **Lorraine Lavender** (*The Black Mirror News*), **Barbara L. Vannoy** of Newark, **Eric and Mallet Man** of the **Bridge Club**, and all you March babies (smiles)... Salute to Newark Police Director **Ambrose** and **Col Joseph Santiago** of NJ State Police. All born and raised in Newark, NJ... Twas a Happy Birthday also, for **Paul Voulgare** of the Maize Restaurant, he's the husband of **Stephanie**... Save some thoughts in your prayers for **Larrie Stalks**, she's in St. Barnabas Hospital in Summit, NJ, very ill.

The Smallest  Biggest Heart

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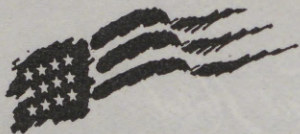


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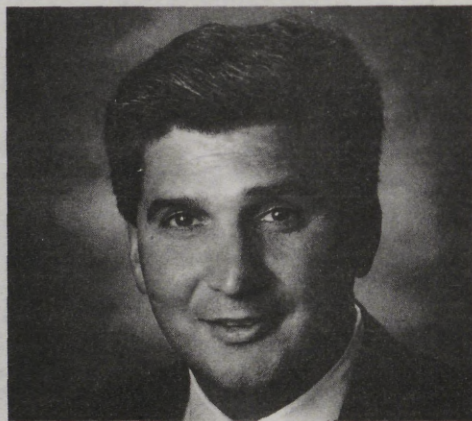
He's an Essex County Freeholder,
the director who reserved a
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an eye blink. And he's a
politician who keeps his promises."

*Freeholder Endorsement
Editorial*

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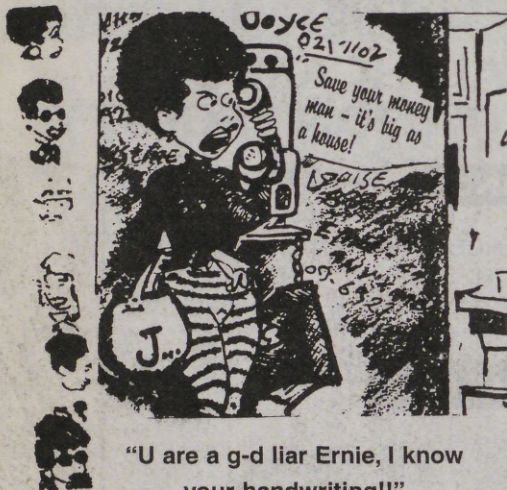
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SHADOW KNOWS...

Remember the "letter of appreciation" I received from Satan last issue? Well, guess who got in touch with me about it?

A LETTER FROM THE BOSS -

I am **God**. Today I will be handling all of your problems. Please remember that I do not need your help.

If life happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle, do not attempt to resolve it. Kindly put in the *SFGTD* (something for God to do) box. All situations will be resolved, but in **My** time, not yours.

Once the matter is placed into the box, do not hold onto it by worrying about it. Instead, focus on all the wonderful things that are present in your life now.

If you find yourself stuck in traffic; Don't despair. there are people in this world for whom driving is an unheard of privilege.

Should you have a bad day at work; think of the man who has been out of work for years.

Gary a Taffet

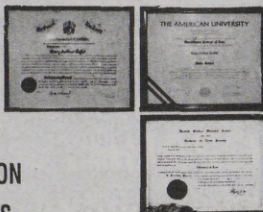
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Should you despair over a relationship gone bad; Think of the person who has never known what it's like to love and be loved in return.

Should you grieve the passing of another weekend; Think of the woman in dire straits, working twelve hours a day, seven days a week to feed her children.

Should your car break down, leaving you miles away from assistance; Think of the paraplegic who would love the opportunity to take that walk.

Should you notice a new gray hair in the mirror; Think of the cancer patient in chemo who wishes she had hair to examine.

Should you find yourself at a loss and pondering what is life all about, asking what is my purpose? Be thankful. There are those who didn't live long enough to get the opportunity.

Should you find yourself the victim of other people's bitterness, ignorance, smallness or insecurities; Remember, things could be worse. You could be one of them!

Tell a friend you read this and pass it on. Thank you, you may touch their life in ways you will never know!

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